

## **FIRE**

### **Indianapolis**

Funeral set for Mooresville firefighter

[Read the Article](#)

## **FLOODING**

### **Anderson**

7:30 a.m.: Flooding threatens Indiana cities, towns

[Read the Article](#)

### **Columbus**

Flooding threatens several cities and towns

[Read the Article](#)

### **Ft. Wayne**

Contact FEMA about flood damage

[Read the Article](#)

Coping with the meltdown

[Read the Article](#)

Road closings

[Read the Article](#)

Sandbags, evacuations and rescues

[Read the Article](#)

Roads Closed by Flooding

[Read the Article](#)

### **Indianapolis**

3 boaters rescued from White River

[Read the Article](#)

Three bodies found in submerged car

[Read the Article](#)

Three victims found in car pulled from flooded quarry

[Read the Article](#)

Some rivers cresting Thursday

[Read the Article](#)

### **Lafayette**

3 found in car in quarry identified

[Read the Article](#)

Agencies seek donations for flood aid

[Read the Article](#)

Flood update: Dams no longer under flood emergency

[Read the Article](#)

Flood update: Wabash River level tops 24 feet

[Read the Article](#)

Flooding hits some area counties harder than others

[Read the Article](#)

Homeland Security gauging damage

[Read the Article](#)

Jobless due to January floods? See if you qualify for aid

[Read the Article](#)

Officials: Flooding could have been worse

[Read the Article](#)

Unemployment benefits are available

[Read the Article](#)

Car Recovered from Newton County Quarry, Victims Identified

[Read the Article](#)

DNR To Use Crane To Recover Car

[Read the Article](#)

More Homes Damaged in Carroll County Flooding than Last Month

[Read the Article](#)

Rain Has Stopped, But Flood Water Remains

[Read the Article](#)

**Muncie**

White River crests near 12 feet

[Read the Article](#)

**South Bend**

3 Bodies Found in Car Pulled from Quarry

[Read the Article](#)

Frozen flood waters an unwelcome twist for Elkhart County homeowners

[Read the Article](#)

Residents evacuating as flood waters continue to rise in Pulaski County

[Read the Article](#)

**Terre Haute**

Volunteers begin sandbagging efforts to keep Little Vermillion River in its banks

[Read the Article](#)

Authorities plan to use crane to remove car from quarry

[Read the Article](#)

**LEGISLATION****Lafayette**

Flood Bill Passes House Committee

[Read the Article](#)



3:23 PM February 7, 2008

## Funeral set for Mooresville firefighter

**Star report**

February 7, 2008

Mourners will converge on Mooresville High School Friday to celebrate the life of Brown Township Fire Capt. David Sherfick.

Sherfick, 40, Mooresville, was killed Monday when the ambulance he was driving collided with a Jeep driven by James R. Hoskins, 45, Nashville. Both men were pronounced dead at the scene on Ind. 144 east of Mann Road.

Sherfick's funeral will begin at 10 a.m. in the auditorium of the high school.

Sherfick was born in Indianapolis and graduated from New Palestine High School in 1985. He had lived in Mooresville the past 18 years and attended the First United Methodist Church in Mooresville.

He previously served as a deputy fire marshal for White River Township Fire Department and worked at the Warren Township Fire Department, according to his published obituary.

Investigators believe Hoskins' car crossed the center line and collided with the ambulance Sherfick was driving.

The ambulance, which was not using sirens or warning lights, was returning after transporting a patient to Indianapolis. A passenger in the ambulance, reserve firefighter Evan Kerkhof, 22, Mooresville, was treated at Methodist Hospital.

Hoskins' funeral will be at 1 p.m. Friday in the Meredith-Clark Funeral Home Cremation & Personalization Center in Morgantown.

[\*\*Back to Fire\*\*](#)



## **7:30 a.m.: Flooding threatens Indiana cities, towns**

Flooding caused by heavy rains and melting snow was threatening cities and towns across much of Indiana, the National Weather Service said.

The weather service extended flood warnings for the Wabash, Tippecanoe and other major rivers into at least Thursday and warned motorists to stay out of deep water.

High waters might have contributed to at least one death when a vehicle plunged into a water-filled quarry.

In Newton County, divers found a vehicle under 56 feet of water in the quarry Wednesday. The car may have plunged into the icy water during the night east of Kentland in northwestern Indiana. State conservation officers said they believed at least one person was in the vehicle.

A diver wasn't able to open the doors to remove the body, conservation officers said in a statement. The recovery effort was postponed until the quarry's owners could pump out the water, Conservation Officer Matt Tholen said.

Rain up to 3 inches this week and melting snow were causing rivers to spill into some of the same low-lying areas hit hard last month.

The weather service said rising flood waters could affect communities as far apart as South Bend, Fort Wayne, Monticello, Peru and Logansport.

The worst flooding likely was on the Tippecanoe River below the Oakdale Dam in Carroll, White and Tippecanoe counties, where as many as 500 homes could be flooded, said Ed Terrell, weather service meteorologist. Officials had asked nearby residents to voluntarily evacuate their homes.

The weather service warned late Wednesday that flooding also would continue downstream of the Norway Dam in White County, though dam operators expected to be able to slow reduce the level of water discharged from the dam.

Fountain County emergency management officials went door-to-door warning residents along the Wabash River that if the level continues to rise, they may have to evacuate.

The Wabash level near Lafayette about 7 p.m. was 23.48 feet, Terrell said.

The river swelled over its banks to just over 22 feet last month. Al Shipe, a hydrologist with the weather service, said it would likely crest between 24 and 25 feet. If the river gets 2 or 3 feet higher than it did in January, there could be significant flooding, he said, the worst between Lafayette and Terre Haute.

The weather service said the Wabash could reach its highest flood level since January 2005 when it crested at 25.03 feet and that major flooding was expected along the Tippecanoe River.

Cresting on many of the rivers will occur over the weekend into next week, the weather service said.

[Back to Anderson](#)



## Flooding threatens several cities and towns

Thursday, February 07, 2008

Flooding caused by heavy rains and melting snow was threatening cities and towns across much of Indiana, the National Weather Service said.

The weather service extended flood warnings for the Wabash, Tippecanoe and other major rivers into at least Thursday and warned motorists to stay out of deep water.

High waters might have contributed to at least one death when a vehicle plunged into a water-filled quarry.

In Newton County, divers found a vehicle under 56 feet of water in the quarry Wednesday. The car may have plunged into the icy water during the night east of Kentland in northwestern Indiana. State conservation officers said they believed at least one person was in the vehicle.

A diver wasn't able to open the doors to remove the body, conservation officers said in a statement. The recovery effort was postponed until the quarry's owners could pump out the water, Conservation Officer Matt Tholen said.

Rain up to 3 inches this week and melting snow were causing rivers to spill into some of the same low-lying areas hit hard last month.

The weather service said rising flood waters could affect communities as far apart as South Bend, Fort Wayne, Monticello, Peru and Logansport.

The worst flooding likely was on the Tippecanoe River below the Oakdale Dam in Carroll, White and Tippecanoe counties, where as many as 500 homes could be flooded, said Ed Terrell, weather service meteorologist. Officials had asked nearby residents to voluntarily evacuate their homes.

The weather service warned late Wednesday that flooding also would continue downstream of the Norway Dam in White County, though dam operators expected to be able to slow reduce the level of water discharged from the dam.

Fountain County emergency management officials went door-to-door warning residents along the Wabash River that if the level continues to rise, they may have to evacuate.

The Wabash level near Lafayette about 7 p.m. was 23.48 feet, Terrell said.

The river swelled over its banks to just over 22 feet last month. Al Shipe, a hydrologist with the weather service, said it would likely crest between 24 and 25 feet. If the river gets 2 or 3 feet higher than it did in January, there could be significant flooding, he said, the worst between Lafayette and Terre Haute.

The weather service said the Wabash could reach its highest flood level since January 2005 when it crested at 25.03 feet and that major flooding was expected along the Tippecanoe River.

Cresting on many of the rivers will occur over the weekend into next week, the weather service said.

[Back to Columbus](#)

Last updated: February 7, 2008 3:01 p.m.

---

## Contact FEMA about flood damage

### The Journal Gazette

In the wake of new flooding in Indiana, the Indiana Department of Homeland Security is clarifying where those with damage should call.

Anyone in counties already designated in the federal disaster declaration from January's storm – Carroll, Cass, Elkhart, Fulton, Jasper, Marshall, Pulaski, Tippecanoe and White counties – should contact FEMA if you:

[\*]Had damage from floods that began Jan. 7 and haven't yet called.

[\*]Sustained additional damage because of more recent floods, even if you have already contacted FEMA initially.

The toll-free contact information for those in the designated disaster area is 800-621-3362 or TTY 800-462-7585 for people with speech or hearing impairments, available from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. seven days a week until further notice. Multilingual operators are available to answer calls.

The call to FEMA is to register for assistance through the federal disaster declaration.

Those with Internet access can register on the agency's Web site at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov), where recovery information also is available.

Indiana residents outside of the designated disaster area may call the state's toll-free number at 866-210-1925. This call is to help the state quantify damage from both floods and determine which additional counties could be included in a request for a federal disaster designation.

Temporary extended hours for the state's toll-free number are 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday and Friday, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. After that, regular hours will resume from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Losses to report can include structural damage to homes and loss of personal property. For a form to help in reporting, go to [www.in.gov/dhs](http://www.in.gov/dhs).

[\*\*Back to Fort Wayne\*\*](#)

Published: February 8, 2008 6:00 a.m.

---

## EDITORIAL

### Coping with the meltdown

The East Side Trailer Park in North Manchester flooded on Wednesday.

Floodwaters engulf Foster Park.

The St. Marys River overflows into Swinney Park, which was designed to hold floodwaters.

Area residents are more than familiar with the recipe:

Take several inches of snow on the ground.

Add warming temperatures.

Mix in heavy rain.

Get out the sandbags.

The rivers, creeks and streams that are normally more than adequate for carrying water from the Maumee watershed to Lake Erie and the Wabash watershed to the Mississippi River are once again turning into raging torrents, overrunning their banks and threatening homes and businesses.

The flooding serves as a reminder of how much area officials have done to alleviate flooding and how much is yet to be done. Again we are reminded of how flooding in our area is both faithfully consistent and fatefully erratic, striking some areas time after time while concentrating much of its wrath on places not familiar with regular flooding, such as the Eel River in North Manchester.

Motorists driving through Fort Wayne see some of the highest water in Swinney and Foster parks, a subtle reminder that decades ago, prescient officials wisely left hundreds of acres along the rivers clear of development and available as natural reservoirs. The same looking-ahead spirit led to the creation of Headwaters Park downtown.

Dikes built along the rivers in the 1990s help protect some areas formerly vulnerable to flooding. A dike project under way at Foster Park will soon reduce the chance of the flooding of some homes near the St. Marys.

The even better defense, of course, is not to have buildings in floodways to begin with, and the city's steady approach to buying out homeowners along Eastbrook and Westbrook drives reduces the number of flooded homes and gives water more places to stand without inflicting damage.

The high waterways push much of the flood damage unseen below the ground, where sewer pipes are unable to deliver their contents to the rivers and flow the wrong direction back to their sources.



“There are a lot of basement backups, and they are pretty widespread,” said Mary Jane Slaton, a spokeswoman for City Utilities.

Again, far-reaching efforts by former mayors, particularly Graham Richard and Paul Helmke, should further reduce the number of homeowners plagued by sewer backups.

A monumental \$240 million plan to dramatically reduce the amount of raw sewage dumping into the city’s rivers will do much to help, particularly during summer months when rains are heavy but the rivers are not too high.

Indeed, separating the city’s sanitary and storm sewers and creating more storage areas for stormwater will relieve some – but not all – of the backups.

The quick melt affects not just waterways but challenges drainage at all low points, making dozens of streets and intersections impassable.

As we watch the icy water lap at and above the banks of rivers and streams, we are thankful that more snow wasn’t on the ground, that the rains weren’t heavier.

For despite the billions of gallons of water moving through the area’s rivers, northeast Indiana, for the most part, dodged a bullet.

This time.

[\*\*\*Back to Fort Wayne\*\*\*](#)

## Road closings

### Sandbags

#### Fort Wayne

Residents can make their own sandbags at four locations where the city's street department has placed piles of sand and bags. The locations are Portage Middle School, 3521 Taylor St., Broadview Florist, 5409 Winchester Road, Taylor University, Fort Wayne, 1025 W. Rudisill Blvd. (the parking lot on the south side of Rudisill), Southwest Conservation Club, 5701 Bluffton Road.

Residents with issues or concerns can call 311 for assistance. The 311 call center will be open continuously during the flooding.

#### Allen County

Empty sand bags and sand are available at the both the North Highway Barn, 2234 Carroll Road, and the South Highway Barn, 8317 E. Tillman Road. Allen County residents can stop by the front offices of both barns and pick up bags to fill from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

### Fort Wayne

Flooding caused partial closings at Foster Park, Johnny Appleseed Park and Campground, Lawton Park, Kreager Park and the Rivergreenway. Residents are asked to avoid contact with river water.

Clinton Street is restricted to one lane at Headwaters Park. Motorists are asked to avoid this area. Anthony Boulevard is open.

### Intersections closed

Calhoun Street and Tillman Road

Charlotte Avenue and Northside Drive

Superior and Van Buren streets

Sherman Boulevard and High Street

Corvallis Avenue and Belle Vista Boulevard

Salge Drive and St. Joe Center Road

Eastbrook and Westbrook drives

Maumee and Fairview avenues

Autumn Ridge Lane and Illinois Road

Wayne Trace and Anthony Boulevard

Garfield Street and Tilden Avenue

Taylor and Freeman streets

Taylor and Bright streets

Taylor Street and McKinley Avenue

Glasgow and Dwenger avenues

Reed Street and Rudisill Boulevard

Fletcher Avenue and Wayne Trace

Reynolds Street and Coliseum Boulevard South

Delta Boulevard and Edgewater Avenue

Mayflower and Winchester roads

Bradbury Avenue and Prairie Grove Drive

Park Avenue and Waldron Circle

## **Roads closed**

Corvallis Avenue at Belle Vista Boulevard

Fourth Street between Clinton Street and Spy Run Avenue

Freeman Street between Jefferson Boulevard and Covington Road

Elizabeth Street bridge

Edsall Avenue to the railroad track

Perry Avenue to dead end and Perry at the alley

7700 block of Woodbine Avenue, north of Cook Road

1700 block of Catalpa 1800 block of Hadley Road

3000 block of Broadripple Drive to Pinewood Drive

Winter Street between Oxford and Grier streets

Westbrook Drive between State Boulevard and Clinton Street

2000 block of Carterton Drive

2700 block of South Park Drive

North River Road from Maysville Road to Fort Wayne city limits

Orchard Lane between Fairbrook and Pine Manor courts

Thieme Drive between Main Street and Washington Boulevard

Rockhill Street between Berry Street and Washington Boulevard

## **Allen County**

The only passable roads in River Haven are Orange Drive and Estella Avenue

If you have questions about high water or road closings north of Bass Road and north of the Maumee River, call the North Highway Barn at 449-4781. If you have questions about a road closing south of Bass Road and south of the Maumee River, call the South Highway Barn at 449-4791.

## **Roads closed**

Amstutz Road from Garman Road to North County Line

Carroll Road from Hand to Johnson roads

Griffin Road from Hollopeter to Auburn roads

Irving Road from Thimler to Brush College roads

Fogel Road from McComb Road to North County Line Road

Cook Road from Felger to Butt roads

Arcola Road east of Yellow River Road

Schlatter Road east of Tonkel Road

Wesley Chapel Road from Bryie Road to Indiana 205

Brindle Road from Coverdale to Brandstrator roads

Fitch Road

Ellison Road from Branstrator to Liberty Mills roads

Homestead Road from U.S. 24 to Ernst Road

Parrot Road from Hartzell Road to River Haven

Amber Road from Redding to Branning roads

Branning Road from Amber to Homestead roads

South River Road west of Madge Avenue

Yohne Road at Branstrator Road

Georgian Drive in Georgian Parkway off of U.S. 24 East

Hamilton Road west of Bluffton Road

Kinnerk Road from Dunkelberg to Ferguson roads

Marion Center Road north of Winchester Road

Monroeville Road at Whittern Road

South County Line Road from U.S. 27 to Winchester Road

Baird Road from Bethel to Hand roads

Killian Road from Campbell Road to North County Line

Shoaff Road from Bell to Hand roads

Vandolah Road west of Tonkel Road

Flatrock Road from Morgan to Lortie roads

Rupert Road from Scipio to Campbell roads

[\*Back to Fort Wayne\*](#)

Published: February 8, 2008 6:00 a.m.

---

## Sandbags, evacuations and rescues

### Pickup driver sent to hospital for hypothermia

By Dan Stockman and Ben Lanka

The Journal Gazette

ROANOKE – It was nearly noon and Dannielle Grillot was still in her pajamas, her little white house protected from Cow Creek by a row of sandbags and her daughters safely at school after spending the night with neighbors, but she considered herself fortunate.

Tired, but fortunate.

"I was up till about 3 a.m. making sure we didn't flood," Grillot said. "The yellow house there (across the creek) got flooded. We got lucky."

As she spoke, Cow Creek – normally a ditch that cuts through downtown Roanoke – was a fat, latte-colored blob that had taken over most of Vine Street, swallowing a handful of houses.

Her house was saved by crews who showed up in the middle of the night, braving the cold and the wet to throw sandbags at the rising water until they beat it back, bag by heavy bag.

Grillot was just one person among thousands affected by widespread flooding across northeast Indiana, from those close to swollen rivers to those far from any stream.

Sometime before 11 a.m., while Grillot was trying to get some rest, the Little River – which had backed up Cow Creek – swallowed an entire pickup truck.

A Roanoke firefighter was traveling on U.S. 24 just north of town when he saw a red truck that had foundered in the waters on Huntington County Road East 1100 North. The road was closed – the truck would have had to drive around a gate with a "High Water" sign – but there it was. It appeared abandoned, but when firefighters using binoculars saw a door open they called for a boat rescue.

"I thought maybe I was seeing things," said Brandon Taylor, Roanoke assistant fire chief and Huntington County Emergency Management Agency director. But when rescuers arrived at the truck, they found Jerry Terman inside, shivering and incoherent with hypothermia. Terman was taken to Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne, where he was listed in fair condition Thursday afternoon.

"He was shivering bad," Taylor said.

In Fort Wayne, firefighters were called to rescue a woman on Westbrook Drive along Spy Run Creek. While her home hadn't flooded, the streets were blocked with water, preventing her from being able to get insulin. Fortunately, the city was able to transfer her to a relative for assistance.

Mayor Tom Henry said the worst of the flooding was over in Fort Wayne with only minor property damage. Because of the flood-control work on the Maumee and St. Joseph rivers, Henry said the city's most vulnerable areas are now along the St. Marys River.

What was most disappointing for the mayor was the timing of the flood, as it comes as the city is in the middle of building a multimillion-dollar project to protect residents in south Fort Wayne.

The project includes about 1,800 feet of earthen levees and 4,000 feet of flood walls to protect about 120 homes in the Woodhurst neighborhood.

Those efforts, however, made it easier to build temporary clay dikes in those areas. The American Red Cross opened an emergency shelter in Fort Wayne on Thursday, but closed it a few hours later because no one needed it. The Red Cross is offering cleanup kits to anyone who needs them; call 484-9336, ext. 205 for information. Cleanup kits are also available from the Salvation Army at 744-2311.

Late Thursday afternoon, the residents of Chase Manor Apartment complex were allowed back into their homes. Two buildings in the complex, on Tennessee Avenue between the St. Joseph River and Spy Run Avenue, had been condemned Wednesday after stormwater backed up into utility rooms and the power had to be turned off.

After some initial confusion, management went door-to-door and informed residents of the need to evacuate. Jim Bullard, of Seymour-based Van Natta Advantage, which owns the complex, said 18 families were put up in hotels for the night.

The St. Marys River had been expected to crest at 17.4 feet early Thursday; instead the water rose much slower than expected. Late Thursday afternoon, the river was at 17 feet and is now expected to crest at 17.8 feet at 7 a.m. Saturday.

Director of Public Works Bob Kennedy said city crews spent the day Thursday reinforcing the clay dikes it had built to hold back the waters.

Thousands of drivers were affected by the flooding, as the St. Marys River backed up Spy Run Creek onto Clinton Street. For most of the day Clinton was down to one lane near Headwaters Park and at one point was closed altogether.

Kennedy said the Waynedale area was one of the hardest hit by floodwaters, but even that neighborhood had only a few flooded basements and no lost homes.

Along the Little River in Huntington, Taylor's deputy Brian Topp was overseeing sandbagging efforts along East State Street, where four or five homes that back up to the Little River were in danger.

Cynthia Tobin said crews sandbagged behind the houses Thursday morning but were bringing more. Tobin runs a child-care center in a house. She said her husband checked on the house Wednesday night only to find the sump pump couldn't keep up.

"For a while they were bailing with buckets," she said.

In North Manchester, about 32 residents of the East Side Trailer Court who were displaced by the overflowing Eel River were expected to be allowed to return home late Thursday, according to David Young, North Manchester's town marshal.

Other counties that reported evacuations included Kosciusko, LaGrange, Noble and DeKalb, where four families had to be evacuated by boat, according to DeKalb County Emergency Management Director Roger Powers. American Red Cross officials said they assisted three families from the Holiday Lakes area near Garrett on Wednesday night.

Officials in Adams, DeKalb, Kosciusko, Noble and Whitley counties all reported flooded roads that forced road closures.

Although some roads in LaGrange and Steuben counties are water-covered, none were closed Thursday, officials said.

Powers said sandbags were used after water poured into the National Automotive and Truck Museum of the United States in Auburn.

Cathy Broxon-Ball, Whitley County Emergency Management director, estimates 2,000 sandbags have been needed in that county.

Both Broxon-Ball and Ed Rock, Kosciusko's Emergency Management director, said they saw cases of "unique" flooding in their counties. Broxon-Ball mentioned some residents were affected by a "running water flood," where runoff with no place to go ended up in sheds and homes. Both directors said they have seen water accumulate in unexpected places.

Rock said one Atwood man – who doesn't live near a lake or river – has been trying to get rid of 8 feet of water that poured into his basement.

Rock also reported flooded areas in Warsaw, where Sunset Drive along the west side of Pike Lake was closed, cutting off access to about 40 homes. Rock also said there is "significant" flooding along Ridinger Lake, where the Red Cross helped two families displaced by lake water.

Officials across the region said motorists have become stranded after trying to drive through flooded roads. Broxon-Ball said four drivers were trapped in high water at the same time Tuesday. All had to be rescued.

"Don't drive through the water," Broxon-Ball said. "You don't know how deep it is or what's underneath it."

dstockman@jg.net

blanka@jg.net *Becky Manley of The Journal Gazette contributed to this story.*

[\*\*Back to Fort Wayne\*\*](#)





## Roads Closed by Flooding

Story Published: Feb 7, 2008 at 9:50 PM EST

Story Updated: Feb 7, 2008 at 9:50 PM EST

**By Eric Clabaugh**

Last Updated: Nov. 7 at 10:00 PM

(February 7, 2008) – Due to high water, the Allen County Highway Department has closed the following roads until further notice:

Amstutz Road – from Garman to North County Line  
Carrol Road – from Hand to Johnson  
Griffin Road – from Hollopeter to Auburn  
Irving Road – from Thimler to Brush College  
Fogel Road - from McComb Road to North County Line Road  
Cook Road - from Felger Road to Butt Road  
Arcola Road - east of Yellow River Road  
Schlatter Road - east of Tonkel Road  
Wesley Chapel Road - from Bryie Road to State Road 205  
Brindle Road - from Coverdale Road to Brandstrator Road  
Fitch Road  
Ellison Road – from Branstrator to Liberty Mills Road  
Homestead Road – from U.S. 24 to Ernst Road  
Parrot Road – from Hartzell Road to River Haven  
Amber Road – from Redding Road to Branning Road  
Branning Road – from Amber Road to Homestead Road  
South River Road – West of Madge Avenue  
Yohne Road – At Branstrator  
Georgian Drive in Georgian Parkway off of U.S. 24 East  
Hamilton Road – West of Bluffton Road  
Kinnerk Road – from Dunkelberg Road to Ferguson Road  
Marion Center Road – North of Winchester Road  
Monroeville Road – At Whittern Road  
South County Line Road – from U.S. 27 to Winchester Road  
Baird Road – from Bethel to Hand  
Killian Road – Campbell to North County Line  
Shoaff Road – from Bell to Hand  
Vandolah Road – West of Tonkel Road  
Flatrock Road – from Morgan Road to Lortie Road  
Rupert Road – from Scipio to Campbell

The only passable roads in River Haven are Orange & Estella

### **Fort Wayne:**

Below is a complete list of the closures. Residents are also reminded to not drive through standing water as depths are deceiving and under currents can be strong.

### **Intersections:**

Calhoun and Tillman  
Superior and Van Buren

Sherman and High  
Corvallis at Belle Vista  
Charlotte and North Side Drive  
Westbrook between State and Clinton  
Salge and St. Joe Center Road  
Eastbrook and Westbrook  
Maumee and Fairview  
Autumn Ridge and Illinois Road  
Wayne Trace and Anthony  
Garfield and Tilden  
Taylor and Freeman  
Taylor and Bright  
Taylor and McKinley  
Glasgow and Dwenger  
Reed St. and Rudisill  
Fletcher and Wayne Trace  
Reynolds at Coliseum  
Delta and Edgewater  
Mayflower and Winchester  
Bradbury and Prairie Grove  
Park and Waldron Circle

**Roadways:**

4th Avenue between Clinton and Spy Run  
Freeman between Jefferson and Covington  
Elizabeth Street bridge  
Edsall to the railroad track  
Perry to dead end and Perry at the alley  
7700 block of Woodbine, north of Cook Road  
1700 block of Catalpa  
1800 block of Hadley Road  
3000 block of Broadripple to Pinewood  
Winter Street between Oxford and Grier  
2000 block of Carterton  
2700 block of South Park  
North River Road from Maysville to Fort Wayne city limits  
Orchard Lane between Fairbrook and Pine Manor  
Thieme Drive between Main and Washington  
Rockhill between Berry and Washington

These streets are either closed or experiencing high water. Drivers are encouraged to use alternative routes to avoid these areas until further notice. Not all locations may have barricades, so use good judgment and avoid driving through standing water.

Please pay attention to high water signs throughout Allen County. Be aware that high water can appear without warning. If you encounter high water, do not try to drive through it.

If you have questions about high water or road closings north of Bass Road and north of the Maumee River, contact the North Highway Barn (449-4781). If you have questions about a road closing south of Bass Road and south of the Maumee River, contact the South Highway Barn (449-4791).

Empty sand bags and sand are available at the both the North Highway Barn (2234 Carroll Road) and South Highway Barn (8317 E. Tillman Road). Allen County residents may stop by the front offices of both barns and pick up bags to fill from 7 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. Monday through Friday.

[\*\*Back to Fort Wayne\*\*](#)



February 8, 2008

## 3 boaters rescued from White River

Floodwaters in Indianapolis have crested, officials say; no rain expected for weekend

By Kevin O'Neal

[kevin.oneal@indystar.com](mailto:kevin.oneal@indystar.com)

February 8, 2008

Rescuers plucked three people from White River on Thursday after they apparently fell out of their canoe. A 17-year-old member of the group, whose name was not released, was able to call 911 from his cell phone while clinging to a tree about 5:20 p.m., Carmel Fire Marshal Bruce Knott said in an e-mail.

The trio's canoe had become wedged under a log, and all three went into the water, Knott said.

All were wearing life jackets.

The Carmel Fire Department went to 116th Street and River Road on the west side of the river while the Fishers Fire Department water rescue team deployed to the east side.

Firefighters and civilian bystanders found the 17-year-old Carmel boy, and the rescue team launched a lightweight boat into the river to retrieve him.

The Fishers Fire Department put in a second boat upstream.

The two other men in the canoe, Sean Robert, 19, and Tony Nguyen, 21, both of Carmel, were found downriver, also hanging on to a tree. The Carmel watercraft was able to reach them.

All three men were transported to Clarian North Hospital.

Elsewhere, high water closed roads in the flood-prone areas of Marion County on Thursday, two days after the area was drenched by heavy rain and a thunderstorm.

Indianapolis flooding, however, has peaked, and waters are ready to recede, according to emergency officials.

"You're talking about backyards, basements and a couple of roads," said Debbie Fletcher, emergency coordinator for Marion County Emergency Management. "We would have to have things change dramatically to have evacuations."

The Indianapolis area, as well as counties along the White, Tippecanoe and Wabash rivers, remained under a flood warning Thursday. That warning was expected to last several more days.

The Indiana Department of Transportation has warned motorists not to drive into flooded roads.

High water in flood-prone neighborhoods near White River led to several road closings. The Indianapolis Department of Public Works list included portions of Chase Street, Arbor Avenue and Coffey Street in the Frog Hollow neighborhood on the city's Southside. Also, Ravenswood Drive from 63rd Street to Ruth Drive and 69th Street east of Crittenden Avenue were closed in the Ravenswood neighborhood on the Far Northside.

The Department of Public Works sent sandbags to those two areas on Thursday, but there were few takers, Fletcher said.

High water in Indianapolis appeared to have crested Thursday, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. "This flood did not hit the White River basin as bad as it did in 2005," said Scott Morlock, chief of the hydrologic networks section for the survey's Indianapolis office.

After a mild and wet week, the National Weather Service forecast called for the Indianapolis area to start freezing this weekend.

After a high today of 44, a major cold front is expected to arrive Saturday night. That will plunge temperatures from a Saturday high of 40 to a Saturday night low of 12. Temperatures will stay cold Sunday, with a high of 16. The coldest temperature this month has been 26 degrees, recorded on Feb. 2 and 3.

[\*Back to Indianapolis\*](#)

4:07 PM February 7, 2008

## Three bodies found in submerged car

**Associated Press**

February 7, 2008

KENTLAND — A crane pulled a car with three bodies inside from a flooded quarry today, three days after investigators believe it crashed into the normally dry pit in northwestern Indiana.

The bodies of two women and a man were found inside the car after a two-hour operation to pull it from about 55 feet of water. State Conservation Officer Matt Tholen said the car likely plunged into the quarry on Monday, when the area was blanketed with heavy fog that police blamed in crashes that killed three others.

The discovery of the bodies came as rivers crested Thursday in many flooded areas across much of northern Indiana, although forecasters believe it could be a week or more before the water fully recedes.

The Tippecanoe River was down nearly 2 feet from the major flood stage of 15 feet it reached on Wednesday about 20 miles north of Lafayette. The same stretch of river saw major flooding last month.

Several state highways remained closed at spots in northern Indiana after up to 3 inches of rain this week combined with melting snow to flood several areas. Fort Wayne had many streets under water, but officials there called off their request for volunteers to help fill sandbags.

Floodwaters from the Wabash River surrounded several properties in the Lafayette area, where National Weather Service hydrologist Al Shipe said the river was expected to crest on Thursday. As that crest moves downstream, more flooding was expected between Lafayette and Terre Haute.

"There will be a lot of roads under water and some agricultural levees are going to overtopped," Shipe said.

In Kentland, investigators believe the car ended up in the quarry about 40 miles northwest of Lafayette after the driver did not see a stop sign, causing the car to go through the intersection and crash through a chain-link fence gate and a guardrail before falling into the water.

A diver who reached the car on Wednesday believed it held two bodies, but poor visibility and the water's 36-degree temperature made additional work dangerous, Tholen said.

One of the other fatal crashes during Monday's dense fog happened when a semitrailer traveling on U.S. 41 in Boswell drove into a freight train.

Meanwhile, several neighborhoods remained flooded Thursday in Fort Wayne, where the St. Marys River was not expected to crest until Saturday. Bob Kennedy, the city's public works director, said crews were using pumps and placing sandbags to help protect homes.

Rescue workers used a boat on Thursday to reach a man trapped in a pickup truck in Huntington County, about 15 miles southwest of Fort Wayne. He was sitting in waist-deep water and taken to a hospital for treatment of hypothermia, emergency workers said.

The floodwaters along the Tippecanoe River near Monticello surrounded Dennis Kellar's home just weeks after the flood that forced him to replace walls, flooring and kitchen cabinets.

“Unbelievable,” he said. “I spent \$17,500 out of my pocket to get back in my home. ... We’ll probably have to do it again.”

It could be more than a week before many northern Indiana rivers return to their normal banks and that flooding was expected along the Wabash River as the crest moves south of Terre Haute toward Vincennes, said Shipe of the weather service.

“The lowlands will be completely gone, they’ll be completely under water,” he said. “If you are on the wrong side of a levee down there, you’re going to be wet.”

[\*Back to Indianapolis\*](#)



## Three victims found in car pulled from flooded quarry

Posted: Feb 7, 2008 07:18 AM EST

Updated: Feb 7, 2008 05:27 PM EST

NEWTON COUNTY, Ind. (WISH/WLFI) - Recovery crews pulled a car from a rock quarry in Kentland Thursday afternoon. DNR officers say the three people inside were residents of White County who were reported missing in heavy fog on Monday.

The car was discovered by sonar on Wednesday, after tire tracks were seen going over a cliff 135 feet tall. The car was in about 55 feet of water. The top of the car had been crushed. DNR Officers borrowed a crane, 185 feet tall, to pull the car from the icy water.

The victims are identified as 22-year-old Mirna Estela Magana-Valencia, 29 -ear-old Roxana Garcia Hayde, and 58-year-old Santiago Amaya. DNR Public Information Officer Matt Tholen says all three were Monon residents.

The victims were believed to be enroute to work in Kentland when they disappeared. The quarry where their vehicle was found is about two miles east of Kentland.

Investigators say the car may have plunged into the icy water because of the heavy rains and flooding from the latest winter storm.

The Newton County Sheriff's Department and the Department of Natural Resources continue to investigate the accident.

[\*\*Back to Indianapolis\*\*](#)

## **Some rivers cresting Thursday**

Posted: Feb 7, 2008 12:03 PM EST

Updated: Feb 7, 2008 05:47 PM EST

Central Indiana - Flooding caused by heavy rains and melting snow continues to threaten cities and towns across a good portion of Indiana. Hamilton, Tippecanoe and Carroll Counties are among the areas affected.

The Oakdale Dam in Carroll County is pumping out 20,000 cubic feet of water per second. Emergency management officials say, five neighborhoods including Horseshoe Bend and Tecumsah Bend are flooded. Approximately 300 homes under water in Carroll County. Many of those homes were also flooded last month. Approximately 20 roads are closed. Highways are washed out and will need repairs, including County Road 100 South, Bicycle Bridge Road and County Road 550 South.

The National Weather Service has extended flood warnings for the Wabash, Tippecanoe and other major rivers through at least Thursday.

### **Marion County**

In Ravenswood, sand bags are down and help is available for everyone. Chase and Coffey Streets along with Arbor Avenue are closed for now, but luckily major flooding is not expected this go around.

"This is pretty common around here," said Debbie Fletcher, Marion County Emergency Management.

By this weekend, Ravenswood is back in the clear as the White River drops below flood stage. Unfortunately that is not the case everywhere. The Wabash will not go below flood stage until late next week.

### **Noblesville**

Chopper 13 also flew over Noblesville. Officials say approximately 12 roads are closed including State Road 19. The White River is currently at 18 feet and could hit 20 feet Friday. That would be similar to the extensive flooding that hit Noblesville in March of last year.

Noblesville reported several road closures late Thursday morning, although 166th & Union Chapel and Mill Creek north of SR 32 has reopened. Closures include:

SR 19 between Field and Logan  
Riverwood Avenue north of 206th  
Riverwood Dr along the river  
Allisonville Rd/ between Wellington pkwy and Westminster  
Boulder Dr.

Rivers were cresting Thursday in many flooded areas across northern Indiana, although it could be a week or more before the water fully recedes.

The Tippecanoe River was down nearly 2 feet from the major flood stage of 15 feet it reached on Wednesday about 20 miles north of Lafayette. The same stretch of river saw major flooding last month.



Several state highways remained closed at spots in northern Indiana after up to 3 inches of rain this week combined with melting snow. Fort Wayne had many streets under water but officials there called off their request for volunteers to help fill sandbags.

Floodwaters from the Wabash River surrounded several properties in the Lafayette area, where National Weather Service hydrologist Al Shipe said the river was expected to crest on Thursday.

As that crest moves downstream, more flooding was expected between Lafayette and Terre Haute.

"There will be a lot of roads under water and some agricultural levees are going to overtopped," Shipe said.

The floodwaters along the Tippecanoe a few miles south of Monticello surrounded Dennis Kellar's home just weeks after the flood that forced him to replace walls, flooring and kitchen cabinets.

"Unbelievable," he said. "I spent \$17,500 out of my pocket to get back in my home. We'll probably have to do it again."

Meanwhile, state conservation officers planned to use a crane Thursday to remove a car submerged in a quarry near Kentland.

Two bodies were believed to be in the car, which was upside down in about 56 feet of water that flooded the normally empty quarry, Conservation Officer Matt Tholen said. Poor visibility and the water's 36-degree temperature made it too dangerous to send divers in to retrieve the vehicle, he said. Officials believe the car plunged into the quarry Tuesday night.

Shipe said it could be more than a week before many northern Indiana rivers return to their normal banks and that flooding was expected along the Wabash River as the crest moves south of Terre Haute toward Vincennes.

"The lowlands will be completely gone, they'll be completely under water," he said. "If you are on the wrong side of a levee down there, you're going to be wet."

(Copyright 2008 Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed.)

[\*\*\*Back to Indianapolis\*\*\*](#)



## 3 found in car in quarry identified

By MIKE MALIK  
[mmalik@journalandcourier.com](mailto:mmalik@journalandcourier.com)  
and JOE LARSON  
[jlarsen@journalandcourier.com](mailto:jlarsen@journalandcourier.com)

February 8, 2008

KENTLAND -- Three bodies in a car recovered from a flooded quarry near this town have been identified.

They were identified as Mirna E. Magana-Valencia, 22; Roxana G. Hayde, 29; and Santiago Amaya, 58, according to a news release from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

"It is a match of the people missing in Monon," said conservation officer Matt Tholen.

It took Indiana conservation officers almost two hours using a giant crane Thursday morning to remove the car that was sitting 56 feet below the surface.

Tholen said the car likely went into the Rogers Group Quarry on Monday when much of Newton County was blanketed with heavy fog.

The car, driven by Hayde, was traveling southbound on County Road 50 East toward Indiana 24, according to Tholen. He said Hayde must not have seen the stop sign and went through the intersection.

"My understanding is that they must have been (familiar with the roads) because people knew their route of travel," Tholen said.

The three worked at S & S Plastics Inc. in Kentland, Tholen said.

After going through the intersection the car went over a set of railroad tracks, crashed through a chain-link fence gate, through a guardrail, drove over a small hill about 3 feet high and then into the quarry.

From the edge of the quarry to the water was about 80 feet, Tholen said.

A deputy with the White County Sheriff's Department took a missing person report for a Monon man Tuesday, White County Sheriff John Roberts said.

"Then we had one person who called in through an interpreter (and said) that two females rode with (the missing man)," Roberts said.

He had not been able to immediately confirm that the three bodies recovered in the quarry were those of people reported or suspected missing in White County.

Conservation officers were called to the quarry Tuesday after the Newton County sheriff's department found the broken gate, tire tracks and car parts leading into the quarry.

On Wednesday, officers used a side scan sonar unit to determine there was a car in the quarry, after which divers investigated and found the car.

Rogers Group Quarry began pumping water out of the quarry at 1,000 gallons per minute, but that was going to take too long, Tholen said.

As a result, the conservation officers used a crane from J and J Cranes in Brookston to lift the car out Thursday morning.

[\*Back to Lafayette\*](#)



## Agencies seek donations for flood aid

By BOB SCOTT  
[bscott@journalandcourier.com](mailto:bscott@journalandcourier.com)

February 8, 2008

Monetary donations again are being requested for flood victims.

Ginger Kadlec of the Tippecanoe chapter of the American Red Cross urged people to send in checks or drop them off at 615 N. 18th St.

"That's the best way to help," she said Thursday.

People also can donate online at [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org) and designate the money for flood victims in the Lafayette area. Go online to your local chapter.

Major Robert Meyer of the Salvation Army in Lafayette said his group also needs money, but not clothing.

He also requests cleaning supplies -- bleach, brushes, rubber gloves, soaps, disinfectants, sponges and cleanser.

"When you are out shopping for cleaning supplies, throw a few items into the cart for flood victims," Meyer said.

He said people can drop off checks and cleaning supplies to the Salvation Army center at 1110 Union St. in Lafayette.

Furniture needed

Furniture is being accepted at 1500 N. Main St., Monticello, for flood victims.

Drop off good-condition furniture from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 4-7 p.m. Fridays, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays and noon to 4 p.m. Sundays, until further notice.

The White County Association of Realtors is sponsoring the collection and eventual distribution.

[Back to Lafayette](#)



## **Flood update: Dams no longer under flood emergency**

### **STAFF REPORTS**

February 7, 2008

Northern Indiana Public Service Co. has lifted the flood emergency for both of its dams along the Tippecanoe River.

Earlier this morning, NIPSCO downgraded the dams from being under flood emergencies to being under flood warnings.

According to Rose Brady, White County deputy emergency management director, as of 7 a.m. flow through the floodgates on the Norway Dam was 19,302 cubic feet per second while flow through the Oakdale Dam was 20,577 cubic feet per second.

Norway Dam is at the base of Lake Shafer in Monticello. The Oakdale Dam is at the base of Lake Freeman near Monticello.

According to Al Shipe, National Weather Service hydrologist, flow through the Oakdale Dam's floodgates peaked at 25,938 cubic feet per second around noon Wednesday.

During the January flood, peak outflow at Oakdale was above 31,000 cubic feet per second.

[\*Back to Lafayette\*](#)



## **Flood update: Wabash River level tops 24 feet**

### **STAFF REPORTS**

February 7, 2008

The Wabash River in Lafayette was at 24.26 feet at 8:15 a.m., according to Tippecanoe County Emergency Management director Mark Kirby.

"We're unsure if it has crested," he said.

According National Weather Service hydrologist Al Shipe earlier this morning, the crest was expected to be around 24.5 feet sometime today.

Kirby said the flood had surrounded several properties along Indiana 25 north of Lafayette, Sycamore Lane south of downtown Lafayette and other areas. But it's too early for any damage reports, he said.

[Back to Lafayette](#)



## **Flooding hits some area counties harder than others**

February 8, 2008

Here is a roundup of flood information from counties surrounding Tippecanoe County. Benton County

A few homes throughout the county had some water in their basements following this week's flood, said Randy Kitterman, Benton County's Emergency Management director.

Aside from that and a few gravel roads being washed out, things were getting back to normal Thursday afternoon, he said. County crews will likely have the roads back in shape in the next few days, he said.

The county will maintain a level two warning until noon today. That means only essential travel is recommended.

All in all "it's been a very odd month," Kitterman said.

### **Carroll County**

As of Thursday afternoon, several homes along the Tippecanoe River were still inundated by floodwater, said Dave McDowell, Carroll County's Emergency Management director. "But the water is going down."

He was aware of only one evacuation. It involved a family that lives along the Wabash River that came to the FEMA office in Delphi for assistance, he said. "We referred them to the Red Cross."

Most of the homes had already been evacuated due to the January flood and were still uninhabitable, he said.

It's too early to tell how much damage this flood caused, he said. He plans to spend the next few days assessing that.

### **Fountain County**

Officials were keeping their eyes on the Wabash River Thursday, as this county downstream from Lafayette has yet to see the worst of the flooding.

According to Joe Whitaker, Fountain County Emergency Management director, only a few people had asked to be evacuated as of Thursday and several homes were surrounded by water.

The National Weather Service is predicting the river will crest at 27.5 feet Saturday morning in Covington. At that height, "we don't anticipate any evacuations," Whitaker said.

"Hopefully it will stay in the 26- to 27-foot range," he said. "If it gets to 28 feet, we'll be in a major flood."

#### Warren County

It was the same for Warren and Fountain County officials Thursday -- all eyes on the Wabash River.

On Thursday, Ken Boruff, Warren County Emergency Management director, called it a "fairly routine flood event for us."

However, the county went to a level three flood watch at noon Thursday as a precaution. The watch will last until noon today, he said.

The watch means people should be aware of the potential for dangerous conditions, such as flooded roads.

As of Thursday only one home had been evacuated, he said.

More evacuations are possible. But if the forecasted crest of 27.5 feet in Covington holds true, "I certainly wouldn't expect it," he said.

#### White County

Gordon Cochran, White County's Emergency Management director, spent part of this week trying to contact homeowners and assess the damage.

He said he can't even make an educated guess as to how many homes were affected this time because too many people still hadn't returned to their residences following flooding in January.

"We're working on paperwork now for the public assistance side of it," Cochran said.

He said he hopes to receive money to help repair bridges, ditches and roads and pay for overtime for personnel needed to deal with the flooding.

-- Curt Slyder/[cslyder@journalandcourier.com](mailto:cslyder@journalandcourier.com) and Joe Larson/[jl Larson@journalandcourier.com](mailto:jl Larson@journalandcourier.com)

[Back to Lafayette](#)





## Homeland Security gauging damage

### STAFF REPORTS

February 8, 2008

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security is trying to measure damage caused by flooding this week to determine whether the state will again request federal assistance.

Anyone living in counties already in the federal disaster designation from January's record flooding -- Tippecanoe, Carroll, Cass, Elkhart, Fulton, Jasper, Marshall, Pulaski and White counties -- should contact the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Assistance is available at (800) 621-3362 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily or online at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov).

That includes residents who have yet to report January damage or people whose homes and properties were again damaged from flooding this week caused by melting snow and heavy rain.

Residents who suffered flood damage not living in those counties should call (866) 210-1925. Assistance will be available from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. today and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday.

The phone number will be open regular hours next week, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday to Friday.

The state is asking those residents to call so that it can look at damage from both floods and determine whether a request will be submitted for a federal disaster designation.

Residents can report damage such as structural damage or loss of personal property.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Small Business Administration and the Indiana Department of Homeland Security also opened Fixed Disaster Recovery Centers this week.

The hours will be 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Sunday until further notice.

The locations are:

- Delphi Middle School gym, 210 High St., Delphi
- The Roy & Fern Tobias Center Library, 105 N. Ohio St., Remington
- White County Emergency Management Agency Office, 315 N. Illinois St., Monticello.

[Back to Lafayette](#)



February 7, 2008

### **Jobless due to January floods? See if you qualify for aid**

People who became unemployed as a result of the first round of severe storms and flooding, which hit northern Indiana last month, may qualify for Disaster Unemployment Assistance benefits.

The federal declaration that recently was issued provides assistance to individuals in nine counties who lost their employment as a result of the disaster: Tippecanoe, Carroll, White, Jasper, Pulaski, Cass, Elkhart, Fulton and Marshall.

The deadline to file for benefits is March 7.

For more on this and other flood recovery information, see the Friday edition of the *Journal & Courier*.

### **Three bodies found in car in quarry**

It took Indiana conservation officers almost two hours to use a crane to remove the car that was sitting 56 feet below the surface.

Matt Tholen, a conservation officer with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, said divers were able to secure a harness around the car underwater so the vehicle could be removed.

For more see the Friday edition of the *Journal & Courier*.

### **Community health clinic fetes two decades**

It started as a pediatrician's dream in a small apartment two decades ago, but grew into a full-scale clinic serving thousands of needy patients each year.

From 240 patients served in 1988, the Tippecanoe Community Health Clinic has expanded to serve more than 8,700 area residents who are under- or uninsured last year.

As part of the 20th anniversary celebration, clinic staff, regional officials and friends gathered Thursday to honor the clinic's founding father Dr. Wendell Riggs.

For more see the Friday edition of the *Journal & Courier*.

### **Business Boot Camp helps entrepreneurs succeed**

What she learned from retail guru Jon Schallert five years ago inspired Linda Elmore to shift the focus of her West Lafayette business.

Elmore, who was offering nail technician services, was among a group of six local businesswomen who attended Schallert's Destination Business BootCamp in 2003.

I was doing only nails. There I made a decision to do beading. I made a decision to change my business. I make and sell beads and offer beading classes," said the owner of LE Originals in the River Market Apartments & Shoppes. "I'm a Jon Schallert fan. His ideas are absolutely fabulous. I think they're wonderful."

[\*Back to Lafayette\*](#)



## Officials: Flooding could have been worse

By CURT SLYDER  
[cslyder@journalandcourier.com](mailto:cslyder@journalandcourier.com)

February 8, 2008

Darrell Ogden rested inside his home on Sycamore Street south of downtown Lafayette Thursday afternoon, while outside, water from the overflowing Wabash River almost surrounded it.

"I'm a little sore from all the lifting," the 69-year-old said. Wednesday morning, Ogden, his son and grandson spent time moving tools off lower shelves in his shed and otherwise preparing for this week's flood.

Their efforts paid off. Ogden suffered almost no damage. The house, which has been in his family for years, was raised to its current perch atop 56 inches of concrete block in 1951.

"The river's never gotten in it, yet," he said.

Though it's too early to assess the damage, Tippecanoe County officials said this week's flood wasn't as bad as it could have been.

In Lafayette, the Wabash River crested at 24.31 feet at 10 a.m. Thursday. Tippecanoe County Emergency Management director Mark Kirby estimated on Thursday that about 75 homes in the county had been affected.

Houses along the Wabash near Americus and Battle Ground had taken on water, as well as a few south of downtown Lafayette and a few more along the river near Fort Ouiatenon, he said.

The same is true for some homes along Barton Beach Road close to where Wildcat Creek and the Wabash River meet. "Wildcat Creek also came out of its banks," Kirby said.

Only a handful of people needed to be evacuated, Kirby said.

Over the next few days, Kirby plans to assess how bad the damage really was.

"It was a big pain," Kirby said. "But that's largely because of the one-two punch from last month."

Last month's flood produced a crest of 22.16 feet on Jan. 10.

Water saturated the grounds of Fort Ouiatenon on South River Road, the site of the annual Feast of the Hunters' Moon. But Feast coordinator Gerald Day said damage appears to be minimal.

"When the first flood came around (last month), we had a couple day's notice," Day said. So he and a few volunteers moved items kept on the ground at the site onto shelves inside a barn.

They had planned to take them down and clean them up later in the spring when the weather gets warmer. So when the second flood came around this week, there was very little to do, Day said.

"We weathered the first one pretty well," Day said.

Ogden, who's been through many floods, said this flood wasn't as bad as it could have been.

"But the way this weather's been recently," he said, "I wouldn't be surprised to get another one soon."

[\*Back to Lafayette\*](#)



## Unemployment benefits are available

### STAFF REPORTS

February 8, 2008

People who became unemployed as a result of the first round of severe storms and flooding, which hit northern Indiana in January, may qualify for Disaster Unemployment Assistance benefits.

The federal declaration that recently was issued provides assistance to individuals in nine counties who lost their employment as a result of the disaster.

The counties are: Tippecanoe, Carroll, White, Jasper, Pulaski, Cass, Elkhart, Fulton and Marshall.

The deadline to file for benefits is March 7.

According to the Indiana Department of Workforce Development, unemployment assistance is available to unemployed workers if, as a direct result of the storms and flooding:

- They no longer have a job, were unable to reach their place of employment or were to commence work but do not have a job or are unable to reach the job.
- Have become the primary means of support for the household because the head of the household died as a result of the disaster.
- Cannot work because of a disaster-related injury.

To file a claim or receive more information, visit any WorkOne office.

[Back to Lafayette](#)



## **Car Recovered from Newton County Quarry, Victims Identified**

Updated: Feb 7, 2008 04:33 PM EST

KENTLAND, INDIANA- WLFI

Recovery crews pulled a car from a rock quarry in Newton County after Noon on Thursday. DNR officers say the three people inside were residents of White County who were reported missing in heavy fog on Monday.

The car was discovered by sonar on Wednesday, after tire tracks were seen going over a cliff 135 feet tall. The car was in about 55 feet of water. DNR Officers borrowed a crane, 185 feet tall, to pull the car from the icy water.

The victims are identified as 22 year old Mirna Estela Magana-Valencia, 29 year old Roxana Garcia Hayde, and 58 year old Santiago Amaya. DNR Public Information Officer Matt Tholen says all three were Monon residents.

The victims were believed to be enroute to work in Kentland when they disappeared. The quarry where their vehicle was found is about two miles east of Kentland.

The Newton County Sheriff's Department and the Department of Natural Resources continue to investigate the accident.

[\*\*Back to Lafayette\*\*](#)



## **DNR To Use Crane To Recover Car**

Updated: Feb 7, 2008 01:29 PM EST

A crane will be used to recover a car from the bottom of a quarry near Kentland, in Newton County. Indiana Conservation Officers discovered the car at the bottom of the Rogers Group Quarry on County Road 50 East near State Road 24.

The car was located using sonar. Because of zero visibility divers were only able to confirm that at least two bodies were inside the overturned car.

Officers began investigating the quarry on Tuesday after receiving reports of car tracks, a damaged fence, and car parts leading to a cliff at the quarry's edge. The car was located Wednesday.

Three White County residents were reported missing on Wednesday. Those people reportedly worked in Kentland, which is about two miles west of the Rogers Group Quarry.

Recovery efforts got underway at 10:00 Thursday morning.

[\*\*Back to Lafayette\*\*](#)





## More Homes Damaged in Carroll County Flooding than Last Month

Updated: Feb 7, 2008 07:52 PM EST

Flooding problems continue in Carroll County. Emergency Management Director Dave McDowell said about two dozen more homes were damaged during this flood. That's in addition to the 300 homes that were flooded for the second time in a month. McDowell said the Tippecanoe River is going down and he does not expect flooding from the Wabash River to get any worse.

"It's pretty shocking when you see a regular road right next to the moving Wabash and normally the Wabash is a couple hundred yards away," McDowell said.

McDowell said people didn't even need to live near the river to get damage from this flood.

"I mean the flood damage is part and parcel of a large downfall of rain and melting snow," McDowell said.

Flood water is threatened several homes and businesses in Delphi that did not get any damage last month.

"If you're familiar with the Pizza Hut in Delphi and the Dollar General Store that's on the other side of the road, the water last night was up to their back door in those areas. And there are some homes along the streets in those areas where the water was up pretty close to those houses or in them," McDowell said.

Many roads are still covered as people wait for the water to go down.

"I'm just worried about getting home to be honest with you. I drive home at night cause I usually work nights and driving through the flood waters worries me a little bit," Michael Keel said.

"I hope it recedes soon and that way people can get back to their daily lives," Laura Jones said.

Anyone affected by this flood or last month's flood should call FEMA. That number is 1-800-621-3362.

[Back to Lafayette](#)



## Rain Has Stopped, But Flood Water Remains

Updated: Feb 7, 2008 07:51 PM EST

Flooding in the Lafayette area is forcing more people out of their homes. Three hundred homes are affected in Carroll County, and more than two hundred in White County.

The Wabash's River Level is at 24 feet, and is not expected to go any higher. So far, at least eight roads in Tippecanoe County are closed due to flooding, and dozens more are affected by high water. Emergency Management Director Mark Kirby says nearly seventy homes in Tippecanoe County are affected by the flood water.

"I had to get his grandmother out last night and I just stayed to make sure the water didn't get out of the house," said Brian Thayer. Thayer says although water did not get into his grandmother's house, the home is completely surrounded by water. Thayer says his grandmother still has power, but some are not so lucky.

"One of the problems we're seeing is the utility companies in some areas have been forced to cut power because they're afraid the water's going to affect the electric lines and so on so a house that may not be flooded might have had its power turned off so the furnace of course won't run and with the temperatures that are expected over the next couple of days that could be a real problem over the weekend," said Kirby.

Kirby says this flood is hitting several different areas than the flood last month, and he expects to see more homeowners with damage. "One good thing if you can call it that is that FEMA is considering wrapping any damages that occur in this flood in with what happened in January so there won't be a need for another declaration, and people who have had damage in the last few days can apply for assistance," said Kirby.

Thayer says after spending two nights with a friend, his grandmother decided she's ready to go back home. Thayer says until the water goes down, he'll be transporting her by boat. "Hang out and make sure nothing major happens, make sure my grandma gets in and out of the house," said Thayer.

Kirby says as temperatures drop over the next few days people need to watch out for ice on the roads, and don't try to drive through any flooded areas.

[Back to Lafayette](#)



## White River crests near 12 feet

Published Thursday, February 7, 2008

by [Da Yan](#)

A crest, fast water and loud sound. With the recent rains and melting snow, flood waters swept through much of east central Indiana. The White River in Muncie reached close to 12-feet early Thursday morning, three feet above the flood stage, which is the highest in the recent week.

Pete Olson, Yorktown Director of Field Operations, said the White river is one of the main causes for Delaware County's flooding.

According to the National Weather Service, the highest flood level was 22.6 feet back in 1913, and the second highest was 14.98 feet. Despite current flood conditions, the water level will recede substantially through Friday.

[\*\*Back to Muncie\*\*](#)



### **3 Bodies Found in Car Pulled from Quarry**

The bodies of three people from White County, Indiana have been found in a car pulled out of a flooded quarry in Kentland.

State Conservation Officer Matt Tholen says the victims have been identified as 22 year old Mirna Estela Magana-Valencia, 29 year old Roxana Garcia Hayde, and 58 year old Santiago Amaya. All of them were from Monon, although Tholen says he doesn't know if they were related.

Their bodies were found inside the car Thursday after a crane lifted the vehicle from about 55 feet of water.

Tholen says the car likely went into the Rogers Group Quarry on Monday, when much of Newton County was blanketed with heavy fog. Investigators believe the driver might not have seen a stop sign, causing the car to crash through a chain-link fence gate and a guardrail before falling into the quarry.

[\*Back to South Bend\*](#)



## Frozen flood waters an unwelcome twist for Elkhart County homeowners

by Ed Ernstes ([ernstes@wsbt.com](mailto:ernstes@wsbt.com))

Homes along Indiana Avenue in Goshen are surrounded by flood waters again, but this time most of it has turned to ice. (WSBT photo)

**By Beth Boehne**

Story Created: Feb 7, 2008 at 4:00 PM EST

Story Updated: Feb 7, 2008 at 6:16 PM EST

ELKHART CO. — This cold weather is adding an unwelcome twist to flooding in Elkhart County.

Many people there just recovered from the last round. They're now watching water again, this time as a frozen flood.

When Denise Hoke looked out from her home on DeCamp Avenue last month, she saw flood waters along the street. It flooded homes, yards and driveways.

Now it's much the same scene, except the new flood waters are frozen. About a dozen homes in the subdivision are landlocked by the ice in about a two block area.

"It's just unreal," she said. "This has been the worst year that I've ever seen and we just thought we were over it. We thought we just got done with all the January flooding and here we've got it back again and now with it being so cold it's all completely ice."

Neighbor Joe Kohler is landlocked. He says it looks like a skating rink.

"Basically that's what it looks like out there, except for that mailbox is just barely sticking out of the water!" he told WSBT News. "It's unusual. There's like 18 inches of water in the basement and we can't drive out the driveways."

In Goshen it was much the same. Homes along Indiana Avenue that were surrounded by water last month are surrounded by water again, but most of it has turned to ice.

"We thought with the first time, with the January flood, and then that was over and we thought now we're good until spring and here it is again," Shauna Heeter said. "Now the water is frozen. We're still having water in our basement. Now we just have to wait for it to thaw out some more and have more water."

[\*\*Back to South Bend\*\*](#)



## Residents evacuating as flood waters continue to rise in Pulaski County

by Sarah Rice ([srice@wsbt.com](mailto:srice@wsbt.com))

Flood waters are threatening homes along the Tippecanoe River in Pulaski County, and the river isn't expected to crest until this weekend. (WSBT photo)

**By Beth Boehne**

Story Created: Feb 7, 2008 at 5:35 PM EST

Story Updated: Feb 7, 2008 at 5:35 PM EST

WINAMAC — Pulaski County is under a state of emergency. Flood waters are threatening homes along the Tippecanoe River. Many people have already evacuated, and the river isn't expected to crest until this weekend.

That means the water will continue to rise. Officials expect the water to reach a record-breaking 16 feet when it finally crests.

While some people there are staying, other say they're not taking any chances.

Mary Gross-Conely is staying put.

"I feel like I've been here long enough that I know when it's time to get out," she told WSBT News.

Gross-Conely has lived along the Tippecanoe River since 1972, and this is the first time she hasn't been able to see the steps that lead down to the water.

"This is the worst I've ever seen it," she said.

Emergency Management is going door-to-door checking on homeowners who live in flood plains.

"We're making contact with them today to see if they want to go ahead and evacuate if their water threat is more than it was yesterday, today," explained John Thompson with Emergency Management.

Moving out is the only option for Mike Adams. He says he can't believe he's going through this again.

"I thought it was over with. We already dealt with the insurance companies and dealt with FEMA, and now we called them back and told them the water is rising again," he said. "[We're] just trying to do the best we can."

Adams plans on moving back in when the water recedes. He says flooding isn't going to keep him from enjoying the beauty of the Tippecanoe River.

"This is my little piece of heaven down here," Adams said. "I wouldn't give up this piece of land for nothing. I love the river."

Since 6 a.m. Thursday, the river has risen a foot. Emergency Management urges anyone who may be concerned about flooding to contact them immediately. For more information, click the "Disaster Relief" link.

[\*Back to South Bend\*](#)



Published: February 07, 2008 11:57 pm

## Volunteers begin sandbagging efforts to keep Little Vermillion River in its banks

River crests at more than 26 feet Wednesday

**By Crystal Garcia**  
The Tribune-Star

Eugene — Danny and Sis McFall walked along the Vermillion River videotaping what was left of the Outpost Campground for insurance purposes, but mostly to take in the scene as real.

"I couldn't believe it," Sis McFall said. "I'm in total awe."

Her father-in-law and his girlfriend, James McFall and Diane Macintosh, own the campground and have been living in a three-story cabin on the grounds for the past three years.

The McFalls were housesitting for them while they were on vacation.

Volunteers worked most of the day Thursday to put sandbags throughout the town to combat the rising waters of the river.

Red Cross volunteers were on hand to provide food and water to the sandbaggers.

"The river's got up, but it's never [previously] got into the cabin," Sis McFall said as husband Danny noted between 4 1/2 and 5 feet of water made it into the cabin.

Flood stage for the river is 18 feet, according to Ed Terrell, National Weather Service meteorological technician. It crested Wednesday evening in Danville, Ill., at 26.23 feet.

Terrell said the river is expected to go below flood stage by this evening, but that didn't help at least five families displaced from their homes Thursday because of the river.

Seven campers also were displaced as the Outpost was evacuated Wednesday, Sis McFall said. All 8 1/2 acres of the campground were underwater Thursday.

Owners of the campground and home are not expected to return until next week, Danny McFall said, because nothing can be done until the Federal Emergency Management Agency comes in. His father and girlfriend likely will stay with family when they return, he said.

"We'll get them put up somewhere," Sis McFall said.

His father has homeowner's insurance, but that didn't include flood insurance, Danny McFall said.

He said his father and girlfriend moved there because they like the river.

"They love the river," Sis McFall said.

"... They knew there was a chance it would flood one of these days in their lifetime, but not this quick."

Across the Eugene Covered Bridge, volunteers manned the Vermillion County Mobile Emergency Operation Center. This was the first time the Mobile EOC was taken out since its upgrade.



They were expected to keep an eye on things throughout the night, said Tim Wilson, road commissioner.

Travis Richards, a volunteer and member of the Vermillion County Ambulance Service, was at the post for at least five hours Thursday.

He said the last time the town saw a flood like this was in 1994.

Richards said many community residents were approaching them with questions about the river and the status of the covered bridge.

The Wabash River hadn't crested yet and it sometimes backs up into the Little Vermillion River, he said.

Wabash River levels in Terre Haute were at 21.33 feet, according to Terrell.

It's expected to crest by Monday evening at 23.7 feet, but it will stay high through Tuesday, Terrell said.

As for the bridge, Richards couldn't say much.

"The bridge has been here 100 years," he said, "so what Mother Nature does, is what it does."

*Crystal Garcia can be reached at (812) 231-4271 or [crystal.garcia@tribstar.com](mailto:crystal.garcia@tribstar.com).*

### **Red Cross information**

- A Red Cross shelter at the Lyons Fire Hall along Indiana 67 opened at 6 p.m. Thursday for Clay County residents displaced by flooding. Residents are encouraged to bring identification, change of clothing, critical medications, blankets and pillows.
- Bloomfield families and individuals affected by Tuesday's tornado can meet with Red Cross volunteers for help at the Bloomfield Fire Department, 75 Mill St., from 4 to 8 p.m. today and 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday. For more information, call 1-866-932-3393.
- Families and individuals who need help because of damage from Tuesday's storm in Clay, Greene, Parke, Sullivan and Vermillion counties in Indiana and Edgar County in Illinois can call the Wabash Valley Red Cross Chapter at 1-866-932-3393.
- Vigo County residents can call (812) 232-3393.
- Donations can be mailed to: The American Red Cross Wabash Valley Chapter, 700 S. Third St., Terre Haute, IN 47807.

### **Road Closures**

- Clay County

Indiana 46 and County Road 375 East

- Parke County

325 West, east of Coxville Bridge

Catlin Road, north of Rosedale

Wabash Street in Mecca, east edge of Mecca to covered bridge

Henley Road near Narrows Bridge

- Vermillion County

Indiana 234 east of Indiana 63 to Wabash River Bridge

- Vigo County

Cook between Certain and McCullough

Farmer between Battlerow and Indiana 63

Pottsville between Sandford and Elliott's Junkyard

Pennington between Indiana 63 and Pottsville

Bowen from the last house and west

Yeager from Siosi Oil and west

McNutt at Hale Place

Rosedale between Grant and Mill Dam

Rio Grande between Erickson and Springcreek

Dearborn between Blackhawk and Eastwind

Cox Road between Hotel and McCombs

[\*Back to Terre Haute\*](#)



## **Authorities plan to use crane to remove car from quarry**

*Associated Press - February 7, 2008 11:44 AM ET*

KENTLAND, Ind. (AP) - State conservation officers plan to use a crane to remove a car submerged in a flooded quarry near Kentland.

Two bodies are believed to be in the car, which was upside down in about 56 feet of water that flooded the normally empty quarry.

Conservation Officer Matt Tholen says visibility and the water's 36 degree temperature made it too dangerous to send divers in to retrieve the vehicle.

The car may have plunged into the icy water during Tuesday night east of Kentland in northwestern Indiana.

*Copyright 2008 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.*

[\*\*Back to Terre Haute\*\*](#)



## **Flood Bill Passes House Committee**

Updated: Feb 7, 2008 08:10 AM EST

A State bill to help flood victims re-build is one step closer to passing.

Now in Indiana, folks whose homes have been damaged at least 50 percent of its value are not able to rebuild.

But a bill by Senator Brandt Hershman could change that.

His bill would align the DNR with FEMA's regulations, and allow homes in a floodway to be rebuilt two feet above the 100-year flood level.

Today that bill passed through the House Natural Resource Committee.

[\*Back to Legislation\*](#)